

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 SPC-03

CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 INT-08 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 L-03 NSC-10 PA-04 PRS-01 SS-20 USIA-15 STR-08

CEA-02 DRC-01 CU-04 NIC-01 /189 W

----- 118138

R 161715Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9622

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRUSSELS 0273

EO 11652 NA

TAGS: ELAB, BE

SUB: COAL FIELD STRIKE LEAVES LEFTISTS WEAKER

REF: BRUSSELS 0142 (NOTAL)

WILD-CAT STRIKES IN LIMBOURG-CAMPINE COAL FIELDS, WHICH  
BEGAN JANUARY 7 AND WHICH WERE INSTIGATED BY SEVERAL RADICAL  
WORKER AND YOUTH GROUPS, GENERATED NO SIGNIFICANT  
SYMPATHY ACTIONS. THEY LEFT CHRISTIAN MINeworkERS  
PRESIDENT JEF OOMS AND BELGIUM'S ESTABLISHED TRADE  
UNION LEADERS WITH MORE VISIBLE AUTHORITY OVER THEIR  
ORGANIZATIONS THAN THEY HAVE ENJOYED SINCE RADICAL  
GROUPS FIRST SERIOUSLY CHALLENGED THEIR LEADERSHIP  
DURING THE YEAR-LONG PERIOD OF LABOR UNREST FOLLOWING  
THE COAL FIELD STRIKES OF 1970. TO THE STRIKE  
LEADER'S CHAGRIN, NEITHER THE

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EXAMPLE OF BRITISH MINERS NOR THE ENERGY CRISIS PROVED

SUFFICIENT TO RAISE MINEWORKERS' HOPES THAT THEY COULD OVERTURN  
A NEW  
CONTRACT WHICH, WITH A 7.3 PERCENT WAGE HIKE PLUS  
COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT, WAS ALMOST IDENTICAL TO  
THAT OF EACH OF THE PAST THREE YEARS.  
LABOR MINISTER ERNEST GLINNE, WHO UNTIL RECENTLY  
WAS HIMSELF COUNTED AMONG THE MORE MILITANT SOCIALISTS,  
MADE A FLAT STATEMENT TO THE EFFECT THAT  
INCREASED ENERGY PRICES WOULD NOT ENABLE BELGIUM'S  
INEFFICIENT MINES TO ABSORB THE 15 PERCENT HIKE THE  
STRIKERS DEMANDED. THIS STATEMENT DID MUCH TO PUNCTURE THE  
RADICALS' PRETENSIONS AND REDUCE THEM TO INTERNAL SQUABBLING.  
THE STRIKE ENDED JANUARY 12 WITH A "MASS" DEMONSTRATION  
THAT ATTRACTED ONLY 300 PARTICIPANTS, NEARLY ALL STUDENTS.  
STRAUSZ-HUPE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** LABOR STRIKES, COAL DEPOSITS, CONTRACTS, NEGOTIATIONS, WAGE RATES, LABOR UNIONS, DEATHS, STUDENT GROUPS, PERSONNEL SEPARATIONS  
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